

# PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING AND “TRASH THE GREASE”

Grease is a by-product of cooking and can be found in things such as meat fats, lard, cooking oil, food scraps, sauces and dairy products. Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Though most of us are aware of the potential health risks of having too much grease in our diets, we don't realize that putting grease into the sewer system poses a public health hazard and can even harm the environment. Grease sticks to the inside of sewer pipes and can build up and block an entire pipe over time leading to sewage spills, overflows and odor problems.

The easiest way to solve grease problems and help prevent overflows of raw sewage is to keep grease out of the sewer system in the first place. The City of Columbia is already addressing grease problems with commercial establishments by inspecting facilities periodically to make sure they are properly handling grease.

## Tips on keeping the sewer system “Fat-Free”

Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.



Pour cooled cooking oils in an old container such as an empty coffee can or bottle with a lid. Then throw it in the trash.



Drain liquid grease generated as a by-product of cooking into a container such as an empty can that will hold up under hot temperatures so that the grease can solidify. Then throw the can in the trash.



Scrape solid grease, fat and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills and cooking surfaces into the trash.

Do not put grease, fat, oils or food scraps down garbage disposals. Put waste baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash for disposal.



Speak with your friends and neighbors about grease problems in the sewer system and how to keep grease out.

## The City of Columbia is making it easier for you to “TRASH THE GREASE”

Many people use empty cans to store grease until it can be put in the trash, but this can be pretty messy. That's why the City of Columbia is giving away *Fat Trappers* and “TRASH THE GREASE” Scrappers to its residential customers to help educate residents on the proper disposal of fats, oils and cooking grease. The *Fat Trapper* has a lid to conceal its contents. When full, remove the foil-lined bag, fold the top to seal it, and throw the foil-lined bag in the trash.



You can get your FREE Fat Trapper (while supplies last), by coming by the City of Columbia's Utilities & Engineering offices, located at 1136 Washington Street, 7th Floor, Columbia, SC 29201.

The City of Columbia spends an average of \$1.5 million annually and 4,500 hours toward unclogging and cleaning the wastewater collection system lines each year.

Costs associated with unclogging these stoppages are passed on to City customers through sanitary sewer fees.

By *Trashing the Grease*, you help keep these problems from occurring and costs associated with fixing them down. Please help us keep your sewer rates low!



Grease coats the inside of sewer pipes when disposed of incorrectly creating sewer blockages.



Sewer blockages cause sewer back ups into homes and businesses or overflows into streams and creeks.

